

Love Through Discipline

The Christian life is not a walk in the park. Part of its challenges is our struggle against sin. We are forgetful, and the Bible reminds us of the reason why we go through discipline. We ought not to take sin lightly; sin is a terrible thing! On the other end, the God does not want us to lose hope or get discouraged when we are disciplined (Hebrews 12:4-5). But why does God discipline us?

Reason for Discipline

God disciplines those He loves — His children (Hebrews 12:6-7). Discipline is an expression of love, and it distinguishes between those who follow God's ways and those who don't (v. 8). It's integral to our inheritance and identity, as our Heavenly Father corrects us for our benefit (v. 9). For instance, neglecting discipline in areas like diet, exercise, rest, or work can harm our health and relationships. True living emerges through disciplined removal of harmful elements from our lives. The Greek word "*paideuo*," used for "discipline," is also found in 2 Timothy 3:16, describing training in righteousness. It primarily denotes the guidance and correction of children, encompassing instruction, correction, and warning. Life's challenges serve as training grounds for Christians, shaping us for greater holiness (Hebrews 12:10-11). God's discipline stems from His tender love (Proverbs 13:24).

Response to Discipline

David was known as a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). David started as a shepherd, then became a poet/songwriter, a giant killer, a king, and even an ancestor of Jesus! However, David wasn't perfect. He betrayed, lied, deceived, committed adultery, and even murdered (2 Samuel 11). In David, we see a bit of ourselves — we want to be close to God, but we also struggle with sin.

How did God show love to David when he messed up? Nathan, the prophet, confronted David about his sin (2 Samuel 12:9-10). Sin hurts people, but it also hurts our relationship with God.

Nathan made David realize that sin is a rejection of God's Word and authority,

as well as the consequences of his actions. How did David respond? He admits in 2 Samuel 12:13, "I have sinned against the LORD" unlike King Saul, who made excuses when he was confronted. David's honesty shows true repentance.

While Nathan assured David of God's forgiveness, he reminded about the consequences of his actions. This lesson isn't just for David's time — it's for us, too. We need to acknowledge our sins, confess them to God, and accept responsibility. David's response to God's discipline was humble repentance, which is something we should aim for, too.

We have three responses to God's discipline:

- We can **resent** God's discipline **bitterly** (Proverbs 3:11).
- We can **accept** God's discipline **reluctantly**.
- We can **embrace** God's discipline **willingly** (James 1:2,4).

Have you made the best response — to embrace discipline willingly? There is no sin too small for us to repent from, or too big for God to forgive.

Stay in God's Love (1 John 4:13-18, 20-21)

God sees what we can be in Jesus, and He chisels our lives until we become what He designed us to be. One of the blessings of discipline is forgiveness (1 John 1:9). No matter how far you've ran away from God, He is just waiting for you to turn around. Godly character is another result of discipline (Proverbs 22:6). Those who are trained will experience the fruit of righteousness: peace with God, in your soul, and in your conscience (Hebrews 12:11). Be strong, live right, and need not the Lord's discipline, but rather experience His healing (Hebrews 12:12-13). God knows our hearts, yet He loves us still (Jeremiah 17:9-10). "Heart work" is hard work, and God does His work through loving discipline. Hearts change when we realize we need God, that only Jesus can make us right with God (2 Corinthians 5:21, Psalm 145:6-9). When may God be found in your life (Psalm 32:6, Hebrews 3:15)? Yesterday is gone, and tomorrow may not come. TODAY is the day we repent and do what God is calling us to do!

Last Week's Memory Verse

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

HEBREWS 12:11

Discuss This Message

What challenges are you facing in your life today?

Is there someone in your life you need to show "tough love" to? How can you balance it with "tender love"?

Is there something in your heart that God is asking you to repent from?

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NXTGEN

KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

Love Detectives

Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM

ONSITE: G/F CCF Center for ages 4-12

LIVESTREAM: YouTube & Facebook

(ccfnxtgen) for ages 4 to 12

ZOOM: for ages 7-12, message us to sign-up

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step up and volunteer

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B1G  beonewithgod

Across  ccfacrossministries

Host Team  go.ccf.org.ph/HTvolunteer

GLC  bit.ly/GLCvolunteers2024

services at the CCF Center

saturday nights

5:00 PM

sundays

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN,
and 3:00 PM

online livestream

 ccf.org.ph  ccfmain  ccfmainTV
9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

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Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

Join GLC's NEW Training Cycle this 2024!

GLC Level 1

Book 1: One by One

ONSITE: March 24, Sunday
10:30 AM, Room 2A

ZOOM: April 3, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

Book 2: Spiritual Disciplines

ONSITE: March 24, Sunday
1:30 PM, Room 2A

ZOOM: April 3, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

GLC Level 2

Book 6: Basic Doctrines

ONSITE: March 24, Sunday
1:00 PM, Room 3A

ZOOM: April 4, Thursday, 7:30 PM

GLC Level 3

Module 2: Biblical Counseling

ONSITE: March 24, Sunday,
1:00 PM, Room 4A

ZOOM: April 4, Thursday, 7:30 PM

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Other Events

True Life Retreat: Transforming Love

April 26-27, 8:00 AM, CCF Center

Register here:

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YOU BEING HERE IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9*

God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your help, I will turn away from my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior and my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of new person You want me to be. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.

God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13